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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Info: SS G P OLI CIA IE DCR

FROM: Brussels

TO : Secretary of State

NO : 690, April 27, 6 p.m.

Control 11002
Rec'd April 27, 1950
3:30 p.m.

[redacted] informed us that Van Zeeland saw Prince Regent again today and it had been agreed to postpone renewed attempt form government pending outcome Liberal Party congress tomorrow. [redacted] that it might be possible form government on Saturday, April 29. We have heard similar weekend prognostications for past six weeks.

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FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY: SECRET PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

Enclosure - 1

TO: Department of State

FROM: BRUSSELS 667 May 16 1950

REF: Embassy's Secret Despatches 289 of March 4, and 583 of April 27, 1950.

SUBJECT: The Belgian Royal Question; Dissolution of Parliament; New Elections of June 4; Party Platforms.

1. BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS: DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

Following the nation-wide broadcast* of King LEOPOLD III on April 15, by which he declared he would be willing to delegate his power temporarily to his eldest son, Prince BAUDOUIN, if the Belgian Parliament should restore him to the throne, the three principal parties drafted a protocol to cover this transaction. Details of the protocol were set forth in Section 8 of Embassy's despatch 583. However, at the last minute a bitter controversy arose as to whether or not the King should be permitted to reside in Belgium while his son served as Regent in his stead. [redacted] As a result, on April 29, former Prime Minister EYSKENS resumed the premiership and countersigned a decree of the Prince Regent dissolving Parliament as of April 30, and providing for new national elections to be held June 4.1/

A. Van Zeeland's Account

At a rally of the Christian Socialist Party on May 10, Acting Foreign Minister VAN ZEELAND made the first public statement2/ of his attempts to form a government for the purpose of restoring the King. He said that the six weeks' political crisis (described in Embassy's despatch 583) could be divided into three parts: the first before Leopold's message of April 15; the second from the date of the message to the receipt of an open letter from the King protesting it was injurious to his honor to debate where his place of residence should be after his delegation of power to Prince Baudouin; and the third phase from the date of the King's letter of April 24 to the final dissolution of Parliament.

Mr. Van Zeeland said that the position of himself and the PSC had been clear, which was to apply the Law of July 19, /1945

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*Called the "Flying Saucer" in some circles because the transcribed broadcast on a disc was flown from Switzerland to Belgium.

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1945 and to bring back the King. To accomplish this end he had made every effort to form a Government resembling the former Eyskens' cabinet as much as possible. He had sought to create a cabinet including Liberal Ministers but without success. He then attempted to form a government of PSC and Liberals, some of the latter not being members of Parliament, and had sought eventually to establish a homogeneous government, noting that the important element in such a case was the necessity of having a majority behind it.

> "If we had been able to, we would have formed a homogeneous government and we would have thus placed the Chambers confronting their responsibilities. Alas, we did not have an absolute majority. We were not entirely free and we were not able to arrive at that solution".

Van Zeeland quoted the King's message of April 15 which stressed the necessity for all elements of the population "to accept the decisions taken by the legal organs of the national sovereignty, with double care to make the will of the majority prevail, and to give the minority guarantees that its rights will not be disregarded". Mr. Van Zeeland stressed that the position of the PSC had been exactly that, and added that they had never ceased to look for a solution in which the will of the majority would be respected but the rights of the minority would not be overlooked.

Mr. Van Zeeland referred to the drawing up of the three-party protocol and the final break-down in the negotiations. He said,

> "The protocol is a thing of the past. It was a draft of an agreement which would have bound the parties only in case of simultaneous acceptance by the three negotiating Parties. Today no one is bound; the protocol is nothing more than a historical fact regarding which we keep our entire liberty of action.
>
> "At the moment when the question of the 'physical presence' (of the King) was raised, the entire PSC rose up and declared that never would it admit that to a first injust exile there should be added a second, even more injust".

Mr. Van Zeeland went on to say that after the King's letter of April 24 had been published, he had asked the Liberals and Socialists to answer "yes" or "no". The Socialists had replied "no" while the Liberals sought to throw on Van Zeeland personally the blame for the break-down in the political maneuvering. Accordingly, Van Zeeland withdrew in favor of Mr. DUVIEUSART, Acting Minister for Economic Affairs, who reluctantly accepted the

/task

task of attempting to form a government. Mr. Van Zeeland said that after having taken his leave of the Prince Regent and recommending that Mr. Duvieusart make a new attempt, he had made a proposition to the leader of the Liberal Party, Mr. MOTZ, to reestablish the Eyskens' cabinet with the sole change of switching Ministries between Eyskens and Duvieusart. Mr. Van Zeeland said that he had told the Liberal leader that if he would not have an answer by that evening, it meant dissolution of Parliament and new elections. He concluded that the PSC had made every effort to form a bipartite government and that the Party was not at all responsible for the fact that this attempt had failed.

As for the future, Mr. Van Zeeland insisted that the position of the King was stronger than before. Many hearts had been touched by the magnanimity of Leopold as evidenced by his message of April 15, and many regretted having voted "no" in the Popular Consultation. The Liberal Party was divided in its councils and there was, in fact, only one real national party left in the Kingdom--the PSC. Therefore, Mr. Van Zeeland sounded the tocsin for the forthcoming elections--"absolute majority".

He said, however, that once the absolute majority was won the PSC would "astonish the world by our moderation", and would be sedulous to see that the rights of the minority would not be destroyed. He concluded with the words, "after having reestablished peace among ourselves, we shall participate with all our strength in the restoration of peace in Western Europe and throughout the world".

b. [redacted] B-1

[redacted]

[redacted] B-1

[redacted] B-1

c. PSC Platform on Royal Question

[redacted] B-1

[redacted] the PSC will be campaigning to restore the King merely for the purpose of delegating his power to the Crown Prince. The PSC will, however, insist on the terms of the King's letter of April 24 and will not accept any derogation of his right to reside in Belgium while Baudouin reigns.

d. Socialist Plank on Royal Question

The other principal political parties have also announced their platforms. So far as the Royal Question is concerned, the Socialist Party, in a manifesto published on May 11, 2/ stated the first plank of its platform as follows:

"1. Liquidation of the Royal Question by the abdication of Leopold III with dignity, and the accession to the throne of Prince Baudouin in national concord."

e. The Liberal Position

The Liberal Party, in a platform published on May 14, [redacted] B-1 The Party platform read:

"The Liberal Party affirms once more its attachment

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to the Monarchy, the Dynasty, and our constitutional institutions. It declares that the Liberals, whatever may be the shadings of their thought as to the heart of the Royal problem, unanimously believe this question can not be resolved by discord or by a decision imposed by one party on the rest of the country; and that on the contrary, a solution of appeasement uniting about it a large group of opinion in an atmosphere of political tranquility is the only one acceptable, and which will be viable. It is in that spirit that the Liberal Party accepted the Royal message of April 15, 1950, a veritable disavowal of extremist and partisan solutions, and that it gave its adherence to the protocol adopted by the delegations of the Liberal, the PSC, and the Socialist parties. It is in the same spirit that it will lend its support to any solution of appeasement capable of being realized in the future."4/

f. Communist "Niet"

The Communist Party platform, as was to be expected, came out against the King.5/

2. GENERAL PARTY PLATFORMS

a. Liberals and Socialists Attack P.S.C.

Since national elections are to be held on June 4, slightly less than a year since the last elections of June 26 1949, the four parties are of necessity put to the task of restating their various platforms. It is significant to note that the Liberals and Socialists speak in almost identical terms in seeking to throw the blame for the dissolution of Parliament and the necessity for new elections on the Catholic Party. The Liberal manifesto published on May 14 says that the PSC alone was responsible for this state of affairs, and notes that the "useless decree" of dissolution was signed by the two PSC Ministers, Eyskens and Vleeschauwer. The Liberals charged their recent colleagues in the Government with the "base design" of calling new elections for the purpose of obtaining "an absolute majority which would be catastrophic for the nation and for the liberties of the citizen."4/ The Socialists in their manifesto of May 11 spoke in almost biblical tones, saying

"Regard how after a year in power with the Liberals, the PSC displays to public view its impotence, incapable of arranging the Royal Question within the necessary concord. They have succeeded only in creating disorder and in dividing the country. ***Unemployment persists, business is in a morass, social legislation does not progress and they have done nothing to redress the situation. Responsible for this failure, the PSC has, nevertheless, the pretension of winning an absolute majority. If they succeed

/in.

in this, they will place the very existence of Belgium in peril in trying to impose on Brussels, on Wallonia, on an important Flemish minority, and on the laboring masses a King they do not want."

As for the actual party platforms, they are similar to those in other democracies in that they promise moons made of veritable green cheese and accuse their adversaries of providing cheese made of moonlight on water.

b. The Socialist Platform

The Socialist Party, after dealing with the Royal Question, calls for [redacted] full employment with the aid of private initiative, demands the application of its standard Labor program, advocates the rights of women and youth, calls for fiscal reform, a "democratic policy" for the middle classes, progressive agriculture policy, land reform, and freedom of families to choose public instruction rather than parochial schools. Perhaps the most significant plank in the Socialist platform is No. 11--"reform of the State, assuring regional atonomy within the union of the Belgians." [redacted] Like the Liberals, the Socialists pay scant heed to international affairs. Their twelfth and last plank deals with foreign policy:

"Active collaboration in the effective organization of Europe which is the essential basis for security and prosperity;

"A persevering effort to make the international atmosphere more healthy and to give possibilities of action to the United Nations, and to guarantee the maintenance of peace."3/

c. The Liberal Platform

[redacted] the Liberal manifesto accuses the PSC of every blunder in the past year, completely ignoring the fact that almost half of the Eyskens' cabinet was composed of Liberal Ministers [redacted] The platform takes credit for all advances made during the past year such as reduction of taxes, fiscal reform, improvement in the unemployment situation, and balancing of the budget, and goes on to insist that only by returning the Liberals to office will this fortunate state of affairs continue.4/ [redacted]

d. The P.S.C. Platform

/The

The PSC platform is largely a recitation of past virtues and an implication that once its "absolute majority" has been achieved, better things will come. However, the speech of Prime Minister Eyskens at the PSC rally of May 10, is worthy of translation in full, as it gives a succinct account of the Government's activities during the past year, and the statistics adduced by the Prime Minister will be of value to the Department. 1/ Accordingly, a translation of the speech forms the sole enclosure to this despatch. 2/

d. The Communist Platform

The Communist platform, making allowances for the canned boiler plate which is sent from Moscow to all Communist parties in Europe on foreign policy, [redacted] B-1 Thus the Communist platform comes out for improved salaries and pensions for the workers, reduced taxes, better unemployment insurance, lower rents, reform in the domain of social security, rights of women and youth, protection of small and middle-class farmers, defense of small business and the artisan, and something called "placing culture at the service of the people". The foreign policy plank, in addition to the usual diatribes against the Atlantic Pact and ECA, does have a special platform calling for the "cessation of furnishing uranium and strategic materials of the Congo to the American imperialists", and makes a special plea for support of the Stockholm Manifesto of the World Committee of the Partisans of Peace. 5/

e. Foreign Affairs

It is interesting in scrutinizing the party platforms on foreign affairs to note that neither the Socialists nor the Liberals, and perhaps, only by indirection, the PSC, cite the Atlantic Pact and the wider horizons of international responsibility to which Belgians are officially pledged to look. The Liberal platform speaks of the long drawn out governmental crisis as making impossible the voting of legislation for the military contingent "and the ratification of treaties relating to the defense of the territory and the organization of the collective security of Europe." [redacted] B-1 the Liberal platform [redacted] asserted "it is necessary that a Liberal Minister continue the work commenced in the sector of national defense and international agreements." B-1 The PSC platform speaks vaguely of the need for European unity, and reached its most concrete expression in Mr. Van Zeeland's concluding paragraph noted on page 3. In fact, of the four Belgian political parties, as indicated above, the Communists alone urge considerations of wider foreign policy, continuing their rebroadcast of

/the Kremlin

the Kremlin campaign against the United States, the Marshall Plan, and the Atlantic Pact.

3. CONCLUSION

It is apparent, therefore, that the elections of June 4 will be fought strictly on domestic issues. The Embassy is hopeful that once the Belgians are able to bury the bone of discord over the Royal Question they will be able again to address themselves to issues of wider significance. It is too early to report on the current maneuvering, and the parties are busily engaged in drawing up their electoral lists. [redacted] B-1 [redacted] These developments will form the subject of a subsequent despatch. So far as present trends are concerned, we feel that there is indeed a possibility that the Catholic Party will win an absolute majority, despite the innate tendency of the system of proportional voting to return coalition governments. However, this will not of itself resolve the Royal Question [redacted] B-1

Our guess is that the Liberals will lose to both the PSC and the Socialists; that the PSC will achieve a slight but inconclusive absolute majority in both Houses; [redacted] B-1 rescind the legal barriers preventing Leopold from returning to the throne; that he will delegate his powers to Prince Baudouin; that he will be permitted to reside in one of the Belgian provinces but not in the capital city; [redacted] B-1

Enclosure:
1. Translation of speech

Robert McClintock
First Secretary of Embassy

RMcClintock/mae
File 361.1

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CITATIONS TO FOOTNOTES

1. Embtels 703, April 29, 1950
   705, April 30, 1950
2. Stenographic report as published in Libre Belgique, May 11, 1950
3. Le Peuple, May 11, 1950
4. Le Soir, May 14, 1950
5. Le Drapeau Rouge, May 10, 1950

RMcC/mae

(Free Translation)
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Enclosure 1 to Brussels Despatch No.667
of May 16, 1950

From LA LIBRE BELGIQUE of May 11, 1950

MR. EYSKENS SUMS UP HIS GOVERNMENT.

THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS THE FIRST WHICH DARED DEAL WITH THE MONSTER OF STATE SUBSIDIES TO PRIVATE ECONOMY, HE DECLARES

When one is considering the work of the government, said Mr. Eyskens, three attitudes are possible:

To say -- as the opposition is pretending -- that its work adds up to zero. That is the attitude of falsehood, just as flagrant as would be the pretention that the government had resolved all the problems with which it was preoccupied.

To caricature the activity of the working party: To say in one or the other party of the coalition: "Only we have worked. The work which was well done was our work. The work of the others was a failure."

Lastly, to attempt, recognizing the merits of each party, whether they be Liberal Ministers or Social-Christian Ministers, to draw up a balance sheet of the activity undertaken by the government which came in to power in the month of August, 1949. This is the attitude which it is my duty to adopt.

But I ask permission to point out, in order to describe the situation with regard to government, the following facts: since August 1949 there has been an unquestionable economic recovery; capital markets have benefited by a real calm and a revival of confidence; social peace has been consolidated, despite the presence in the opposition of the Socialists and the Communists; the government has been interpellated 33 times, 12 times in the Senate and 21 times in the Chamber, and 33 times it has won the confidence of Parliament.

THE POLITICAL BALANCE SHEET

We promised to the PSC, who had demanded it since 1945, the organization of a popular consultation.
It took place with the principal result which the PSC expected of it:
(1) To prove that a majority of the citizens of the country desired the return of the King
(2) To prove that this majority is not made up only of Social-Christian forces.

This proof was strikingly obtained: the PSC won 43.- 1/2 % of the votes in the 1949 elections; the popular consultation brought 58 % in favor of the return of the King.

It is not without point to recall that the popular consultation was not obtained by the PSC - Socialist government.

The government declaration of August 1949, started from zero, or very nearly so, as far as concerns the effective possibility of a popular consultation. The slightest accident or dispute could have brought about a rupture.

The two parties of the government were not in agreement on this subject in August, 1949.

The Liberal Ministers however voted, with the PSC and other Liberals, the law on the popular consultation.

We have, so far as we are concerned, respected our obligations toward them, and I wish to recall that this explains the collective resignation of the government of March 18, 1950.

Recognizing today all the peripetia of the crisis and the six weeks of negotiations with the Liberal Party, everyone will understand that the working party had fatally to break up when I proposed, on the part of the PSC, on March 17 and 18, to unite the two Chambers in order to apply the Law of July 19, 1945 to restore the King to his prerogatives.

ECONOMIC BALANCE SHEET

The government placed its entire activity under the sign of this motto: the expansion of private initiative by means of the complementary intervention of the State in order to support private initiative and to complete it to the best collective interests of the Nation, of social progress, and of the general welfare.

The following measures were taken:

Reduction of the discount rate of the National Bank and arrangement of banking regulations, both favoring credit conditions.

Progressive unblocking of blocked funds derived through monetary rehabilitation.

Revision of the fiscal reform project and immediate realization of certain tax reductions, especially in favor of wage-earners.

Definitive liberalization of Belgian importations from the restrictions which might still confine them.

Belgium's contribution to the distribution of credits in connection with American aid.

Belgium's participation in the broadening of international quotas within the framework of OEEC to the amount of 50 % beginning December 15, 1949, 60 % beginning July 1, 1950, perhaps 75 % at the end of 1950.

Lifting of restrictions placed on the exchange of industrial products between Belgium and the Netherlands, in line with Benelux.

Encouragement of scientific research and the creation of new industries.

Rehabilitation of the coal-mining regime by the progressive elimination of subsidies.

And let no one say that we thus drove the collieries to ruin: of the 55 collieries which have published their balance sheets up to the present, 44 show a profit for the fiscal year 1949, 7 are balanced, 1 shows a loss, 7 belong to an industrial beneficiary complex. These results must be compared with the regime which previously existed and which distributed subsidies, the use of which was not controllable, to the entire coal-mining industry.

Coal production in 1947 reached 2,000,000 tons per month. It increased to 2,300,000 tons in 1949 and to 2,529,000 tons in March 1950.

STRUGGLE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

The pressure of international economic conditions, along with a certain slackening in internal consumption and investment, brought about in 1948-1949 a depressing and dangerous unemployment situation.

The struggle against unemployment has been arranged through a number of measures aimed at the creation of new industries and at the augmentation of our exports.

As to specific measures aimed at ameliorating the situation of the labor market, let us mention the Public Works policy and the construction policy.

As regards the Public Works: the special budget of the Departments of Public Works, of National Defense, of Public Health, and of Communications has been increased from 9.7 billions in 1949 to 13.2 billions in 1950.

Particularly, the Public Works budget properly speaking has been increased from 4.9 billion to 7.9 billion. All sections of the country have benefited from this. There is work here for more than 80,000 men.

At the same time building construction has been stimulated by premiums and credits.

Within the framework of the housing policy, the credit agreements increased to 1 billion 848 millions. The whole of the government's financial efforts in the matter of construction of housing reached 3 billion 323 million for the period of from August 1, 1949 to March 31, 1950.

The result of all this is set forth in several figures which are more effective than words.

The production index rose to 128 in March 1950 as against 112 in August 1949.

Exportations, after having decreased during the summer of 1949, have since risen to a new level, to the point that all records were broken in the month of March 1950, exportations having reached 7 billion 600 millions of francs and covering importations to the amount of 93 percent.

Unemployment Index: 265,000 unemployed in December 1949 as against 220,000 in April 1950 and probably 200,000 in May. These figures are all the more interesting when one recalls that in 1938, at the time the Socialists were in the government and were applying their planning policy, there were in December 241,000 unemployed.

BUDGETARY BALANCE SHEET

The budget was balanced at the beginning of the year 1949. It was no longer balanced during the first months of the year and the reasons for this are known: it was the moment of our first dissensions within the PSC - Socialist government, and it was also the period in which I presented to the head of the government a plan for improvement which could not be accepted in the pre-electoral climate in which we then were living.

Favorable circumstances have made it possible for us not to turn over to the new Minister of Finance a deteriorated situation. The legend of the deficit of 5 billions which the Liberal press is now circulating is reduced to nothing, the latest figures on the budget situation allow us to anticipate a balance in hand of from 650 to 700 millions of francs.

There is no harm in recalling what a difference separates the state of finances in 1947, at the period when the PSC agreed to succeed the so-called governments of the Left, and the state of finances in 1949, at the moment when the PSC transferred the Finance portfolio to a Liberal Minister.

The budgetary deficits have evolved as follows: In 1945, 33,360 millions; in 1946, 23,548 millions; in 1947, 14,295 millions; in 1948, balanced; in 1949 probably balance in hand of from 650 to 700 millions.

As to the budget for 1950, it is known that it has been settled with a slight surplus of 88 millions.

The government arrived at establishing this equilibrium because it consented to inaugurate a courageous policy in the matter of economic subsidies.

I hope that this justice will be rendered to the present government which has been the first to dare to deal with what became the monster of state subsidies to private economy.

The figures prove it: In 1949 there were 14,383 millions in economic subsidies In 1950, 7,022 millions; thus a decrease of 7,361 millions.

If budgetary equilibrium has been realized in 1950, it is thanks to the radical change in the coal-mining policy, thanks to the massive suppression of subsidies, thanks also to the financial rehabilitation of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer courageously and energetically undertaken.

While the administrative expenses of the State have increased, it has been possible to reduce gross expenses, thanks to the new economic policy which was inaugurated. Once again it is proof that appreciable budgetary retrenchments can only be brought about by profound changes in economic policy and by the suppression of the regime of subsidies.

SOCIAL BALANCE SHEET

The country will be told, and particularly the workers, that it is especially on the social plane that the failure of the government has been flagrant. That is why I wish to reply to that in detail.

I declare that the present government has assured: (A) Employment to the greatest possible number of workers; (B) the development of the emancipation of the workers.

(A). The policy of full employment

Without taking into account here the incidence of the solutions of our colleague, Mr. Duvieusart, on the employment problem in the question of the coal-mining industry, I believe that one can objectively include in this section:

1. The struggle we have waged against unemployment of which the results are such that at present the number of unemployed is equivalent to the figure for the same period of 1949, despite international difficulties which have increased.

2. The fact that we have maintained the metallurgical industry at the elevated level it had reached.

3. The revival of the textile industry which was the consequence of our Benelux policy.

4. The solution this government provided for the problem of the frontier workers.

5. The first steps which were ensured for new industries, particularly in the Antwerp region.

(B) The emancipation of the workers

1. With serious proposals we arrived at bettering the wage - cost of living relation. The indices of retail prices were established in December 1948 at at 395; in September 1949 at 379; in December 1949 at 375.4 and in April 1950 at 369.7, while the wage indices were established in 1948 at 395, in 1949 at 403 and at the beginning of 1950 at 406. Our adversary's propaganda had to recede before the facts.

2. We have put the accent on a generous policy in favor of workers' housing. That is the whole cheering chapter of De Taeye law. Since the month of August 1949, 31,600 premiums or loans have been granted in the purpose of promoting the housing policy within the framework of the De Taeye law. The present government has paid, since August 1949 to the end of March 1950, a billion francs in construction premiums more than the preceding government.

3. We have commenced the concrete realization of structural reforms, notably the installation of the Central Economic Council which is functioning today, the election of the Enterprise Councils constituted for all enterprises which employ more than 200 people and we have drawn up legislation to protect the candidates to these councils.

4. Let us point out as especially interesting social realizations the definitive incorporation of the former compensatory bonds in various social allocations and the creation of the premium for the mother of the home.

5. As concerns the victims of war damages, I stress that advances on reparation indemnities have markedly increased under the present government; the commitments during the period of from August 1949 to the end of March 1950, reached a total of 2 billions, while the corresponding figure was 2.3 billions for the activity which spread out from the Liberation to the end of July 1949.

As concerns the payments, to the total of 1.9 billions, paid out from the Liberation to the July 31, 1949, one can compare the 1.381 millions paid out from August 1, 1949, to March 31, 1950.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION

There are also, in this balance sheet, negative aspects, and notably the lack of success of the multiple efforts made in the field of education.

I think that it can be said, after two years of governmental collaboration with the Socialist Party and nearly a year of collaboration with the Liberal Party, that the PSC has amply proved its respect for official education and the moderation it would exercise if, as the Catholic opinion wishes, the Party should one day take up again the direction of the Department of Public Instruction which it has not had for so long.

At the same time I believe there has been proof of the passivity shown by the Ministers of the Left with regard to free education.

The PSC has not arrived, under the present government, at resolving the problem of the personnel for technical instruction, and that is the greatest

liability for which we can re reproached.

In this regard, we have seen a Liberal Minister refuse to execute a decision taken and confirmed shortly after by the Council of Ministers; consequently, every one will know at least on whom rests the responsibility for this failure.

The PSC has proved its broad understanding of official instruction and will not persecute it in any way if it should obtain an absolute majority.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion it can be affirmed that the government has well administered the country.

It brought about the popular consultation.

The international policy it has pursued has unquestionably raised the prestige of Belgium.

Foreign commerce has been developed beyond the hopes allowed after the vast monetary alignment which shook the world in September 1949.

The organization of the national defense has been systematically pursued with full respect for our international commitments as a country participating in the defense of the Occident.

In economic matters, by the rehabilitation of the coal-mining situation, by the financial rehabilitation of the Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer, by an agricultural policy ensuring as far as possible returns to the producers; finally by the development of the Ten-Year Plan for the Congo, everything has been done to contribute to the development of the country.

The fundamentally healthy situation is reflected in balanced budgets, the increase in savings, and the broad possibilities presented by the capital market.

We have the duty of solving tomorrow the problem of education.

In face of the Leftists who, in this matter, have proven a lack of understanding and sectarianism, we shall know how to develop a really national policy of education guaranteeing also to free instruction the expansion which is its right.

The popular consultation, organized by this government, has opened the way to the solution of the royal question.

The Social-Christian Party, by winning the majority, will throw into the battle all its political strength to realize its program, including the royal question, that is to say the restoration of the King to his prerogatives.